

172 A Recantation

SERMON

Preach'd by Dr. Richardson, (20)

In *St. Mary White-chappel*, on *Sunday* the
16th of this instant *Septemb.* 1711.

Who was lately a Preacher to a great *Presbyterian* Con-
gregation at *St. Jones's* in *Clerkenwell*, and one of the
Lecturers at *Pin-makers-Hall*.

In which are contain'd the Reasons of Him, and Five
more *Presbyterian* Ministers, and also Fifty Families
of the same Opinion, why they all left the *Pres-
byterian* Perswasion, and imbraced the Religion of
the *Church of England*.

The Text is in the *Hebrews* Chap. V. Vers. 4. and 5.
*And no man taketh this Honour unto himself, but he that is called of
God, as was Aaron.*
*So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high Priest; but he that
said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee.*

Lastly, You have a particular Account how they were
all Converted to the said Faith and Worship of
the *Church of England*,

By the Reverend Dr. *Wilton*, Minister of
White-chappel.

Entred in the *Hall-Book*, according to Act of Parliament.

L O N D O N:

Printed for *John Williams*, near *St. John's-street*. 1711.

The SERMON.

The Text is taken out of the 18th Chapter of the Revelations, Verse the 4th.

And I heard another Voice from Heaven, saying, Come out of her my People, that ye be not partakers of her Sins, and that ye receive not of her Plagues.

Beloved B R E T H R E N,

YOU may perchance Wonder to see one of my Profession stand Preaching here before so great and eminent a Congregation, considering that I have been formerly your Churches open and professed Enemy; and that I might very well Blush for shame for being so.

But see how strangely the Almighty brings things to pass, and as St. Paul was, so were we here great Persecutors of you the true Worshipers of God, for which great Thing you and we are bound to worship his Holy Name for evermore, World without end.

But you will now expect that I should give a particular Account of this great Work, nay, rather of this great a Salvation to our poor lost and for ever undone Souls; and so I will, and my Text that I have taken on this occasion will exactly Copy out the Affair which now I am about to open to you, and the Words are these.

And I heard another Voice from Heaven, saying, come out of her my People—— Which Angelical Voice is now before your Presence, in this great Congregation, and that it stands which said, *Come out of her*, and by God's great Mercy, and the strong perswasive and powerful Arguments of this Reverend Person, the pious and learned

Dr. *Wilton*, the Pastor of this Church of *St. Mary White-chappel*, has been the only means to convert and bring me and Five more of my Brethren, besides 50 Families of *Presbyterians* over, as poor wretched Sinners, into the Faith, Communion, and Bosome of this pious Mother the Holy Church of *England*; and I hope by God's Assistance that we shall continue all the Days of our Lives to live and dye in the said Opinion, Profession and Faith of the said Church of *England*, which is truly Apostolick and Catholick, tho' not *Roman*, or tainted with that Idolatrous Superstition.

Popery, my Beloved, has been the continual Stale made use of against the Church of *England*, by us the pious Saints of the Earth, and by which we hop'd to have brought to ruine the Church of *England*: 'tis true, Miracles we have done with it, it has brought a pious King to the Block, plucked down once the Church of *England*, and the Righteous plunder'd the Nation bravely. A second time it brought in the *Rye-house* Assassination, and then the hopes was of taking off the King and the Duke both at a time: A third time it brought poor *Monmouth* to the Block, and then we sacrificed many *Dissenters* in the *West*: A fourth time it brought in the Prince of *Orange* the glorious King *William*, who delivered these Nations from *Popery*, and Slavery, and Arbitrary Government: A fifth time it brought in the *Pretender* into *Scotland*, but there we fail'd in our attempt: A sixth time we thought to have blown up the Church of *England* at once, when we bravely Impeach'd the Reverend Dr. *Sacheverell* of High Crimes and Misdemeanors, and our Party growing near their Ruine, was so infatuated, that they indiscreetly Disputed her Majesty's Hereditary Title to the Crown of *Great Britain*, and would have barter'd it away for a Revolution one; and here we most wickedly miscarried, for the Eyes of the Nation was by a Miraculous Providence opened, and they began plainly to see the Danger the *Queen*, the Church, and the State were in, and wisely Her Majesty discardd the late Ministry. And a 7th Time we attempted by High Crys of *Popery*, Slavery and Arbitrary Power, to set up the Title of the

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Hamiltons against the *Stewards*, to the Crown of *England*; but that is as vain as the rest, here no doubt but we shall fail in this matter as heretofore.

These were some of the Motives, that induced me first to inquire steictly after the Worship, and True Religion of the Dissenters, and reading the Reverend Doctor *Wiltons* Sermon upon Obedience to the Higher Powers, which he preached before the Worshipful the Livetenancy of the City, I had formed several Objections against the same, and desiring to Discourse the Doctor thereon, he gave me and my Company, such convincing Reasons that it soon made us his Converts, and in some time after he intirely brought us over to the Faith, and Worship of the Church of *England*, in which I am now as a Pastor of this Church, being call'd thereto by Divine appointment, I must needs declare, my unsain'd assent and consent to the Doctrine and Worship of the same.

I do believe all the Articles of the Christian Faith, contain'd in both the Creeds, which are now protested in the said Church of *England*, I unfeignedly consent to the Articles, Canons and Apostolical Rules, Precepts and Ordinance, and will do my utmost endeavours to observe, Propagate, and keep the same.

I do before this great Assembly own, that the Priests of the Church of *England* are the true Ministers, and Pastors of the living God, and all such as comes in at the wrong Door, are Wolves in Sheeps cloathing, are Thieves and Robbers, and are crept into silly Womens Houses of purpose to devour them.

Shall these silly Preachers, these Petty-coat Embassadors lead Captive the simple, and ignorant, under the Notice of the Lords Pastors, the Almighty's Minister's, no shame let it ne're be so said; let us bravely up and fight the Lords Battle, and Ratle with these usurped Privileges and Powers, that leadeth into Captivity, and the and their People shall go into Captivity: *He that Kills with the Sword, shall be Killed by the Sword*; here is patience and the faith of the Saints, and yet a little while behold that it was given him to make War with the Saints and to overcome them, and power was given him over

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hundreds, Tongues and Nations. And was not this abundantly verified in the late unnatural Wars with King Charles the first, but now I will up saith the Lord, I have heard your crys, and will consider your complaints, and will be avenged of all your Enemies.

And truly I am of Opinion, that now the time is come, that the Lords Work will be done upon Earth; and this eminent Church of *England* has not only been persecuted forty Years, but fourscore Years. Nay, a hundred Years long, as it were in the Wilderness, by the Dissenters on the one hand, and the Papists on the other; and now is the time drawing nigh of her Deliverance, from all these plagues and troubles, that she has so long and patiently undergone. By the base Malice of those Wicked and Turbelant *Pests* of this Church, State and Nation, for True and Righteous are his Judgments, and he will avenge the Blood of his Servants, for his time is at hand, it is now drawing nigh. And a voice came out of the Throne, saying, praise our God, all ye his Servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great, sing *Hallelujahs!* for the Lord *God Omnipotent, Reigneth for ever and ever,* Rev. 19. v. 2. 6. And again he saith unto me, *Right Blessed are they which are called to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, these are the true sayings of God,* ver. 9.

Now then since these are the true sayings of God, to be called to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, how ought we that are but newly called to this Supper, to give Thanks in the Holy Church, always for thy great Mercy Vouchsafed unto us; let us all our days praise his holy Name, for his great Mercies, for ever and ever.

Most compassionate Brethren, you that are the True Members of the Church of *England*, I don't mean your Hypocritical Occasional Conformists, those are but Laodeceans, not fit to be mention'd among Christians: To you I speak, you that upon all accounts have been so full of Compassion, and long Suffering always abounding in Charitable good Works, to all People, but especially to such Dissenters, as are known by the Name of *Presbyterians*, how long I say? nay, and

and how often have you waited with patience, and with earnest desires, have long sought to bring such over to your pious Church of *Englands* Worship, have you not with Prayers to the Almighty, and with Tears in your Eyes, besought 'em not to make the Rent of the Church Wider, by their Separation and Schisme, and yet here I speak it, none has lent a listning Ear to your pious Prayers, and Charitable Tears.

Nay, have not the Church as it were, employ'd most or all Dissenters, in their outward Temporal Affairs, and continually bought of such, and with a seeming neglect have ventured and hazarded almost the loss of all their Church Members to Employ such as hardly gave them Thanks, for their Charitable disposition, thinking that they neglected *St. Paul's* Rule, by not providing for their own House-hold first, and if over and above to spare them to provide for the poor distressed stranger.

I say this is Wonderous, that they did not loose any one of their own People, by being so ready and Compassionate to serve such an Ungrateful Thankless Generation, as the *Presbyterian Dissenters* are.

But what do I say, 'tis such Wolves in Sheeps Cloathing as we, that keep the poor Innocent People in suspense, and for the Lucre of the large Collections we used formerly to receive; do our endeavours to pervert the People. But O Lord, forgive me, and these my Brethren, that great Sin and Wickedness, this heavy Transgression, that we have so publicly committed, and as it becomes true Penitents, to acknowledge and Confess our manifold Sins and Wickedness, so do we freely Confess and Acknowledge the same, and do make a publick Confession of our hainous Sins, and we do Repent; I say, we do unfeignedly Repent of them all very heartily, and as we do trust in God for Remission for the same, so we do heartily beg the Prayers of this Congregation.

And to make some sort of Attonement for our most Wicked Sins, Crimes and Abominations, we do before this great Assembly acknowledge, that such as are the

Pastors

stors and Teachers, in the *Presbyterian Dissenters* Con-
 gregations, are only Thieves and Robbers, and are crept
 at the wrong Door, and never came in Justly, Truly
 Honestly by the only Door of *Episcopal Ordination*, and
Confirmation; I must needs confess that these are only the
 true Marks of a Pastor of the Church of *England*, which
 must ever is the True Church of *Christ*, and whoever
 comes in any other way, must publicly declare are false
 Teachers and Sons of *Belial*, are Thieves and Robbers,
 and without true Repentance, great will be their Cursed
 Portion in the next World, from which eternal Sentence,
 God of his infinite Mercy prevent. For should thou enter
 into Judgment with thy Servants, we that do heartily Re-
 pent of all our Sins and Wickedness, we could hardly
 withstand thy Divine Sentence against us, and if we can
 scarcely be saved, that do sincerely Repent, and implore
 thy Divine Majesty's Pardon, where shall the unrepenting
 and hardened Sinner appear, he to be sure must Ripe the
 fruit of his Labour, for he that has sown in Rebellion
 of Rebellion shall reap if of the Sword, of the Sword shall
 reap if of Perjury, Abjuration, of the Blood Royal, of
 the same Fruit shall he reap, if he has Malicious taken
 away the life of the Innocent, he shall receive an unjust
 sentence, which shall also pass upon his Life, these are
 the Temporal Fruits which he will certainly reap on this
 side the Grave: But Oh! when I consider his eternal
 state, where he shall receive for all his wicked Works,
 his cursed Portion, with the Devil and his Angels, Oh,
 how does it strike a Dread, Terrour and Fear in the Heart
 and Consciences of all good Men, to see a spiteful Envi-
 ous and Malicious, rebellious and Perjur'd Wretch Toss'd
 up and fro in endless Misery, for the Sins and Pleasures
 that he took in committing of them on this side of the
 Grave, to hear his Howls and Groans, Sighs and Crys will
 strike such a Dread and Fear in us, that we shall scarcely in-
 sure the Crys thereof: But what do I say, 'tis best for
 them to Repent in Time, for the Saints in Heaven shall
 be made to Rejoyce at their eternal Torments, and Punish-
 ments, because the Almighty will then be avenged on the
 Wicked, and the Righteous shall be glad and Laugh for
 Joy.

Oh therefore you harden'd Sinners, whose Conscience at present are unrelenting, consider your hard Case in the next World, you that wou'd not be contented to live peaceably and quietly With your Brethren on this side the Grave, but were always disturbing of Kings, Principalities, States and Potentates, and making your selves above all the Almighty's sacred Orders, and the Temporal Kings upon Earth, are now to abide in Eternal Misery when there shall be Weeping and Gnashing of Teeth. Oh consider this before you depart hence, and be no more seen: Repent, Repent, I friendly do advise you, while you are on this side the Grave, and while you are in good Health, lest Death over-take you, and cut off the Thread of your Life, lest you are prevented when it is too late.

A PRAYER made for their Conversion and true Repentance.

O Glorious Lord God! as thou hast by thy Divine Appointment, and in thy Holy Word taught us to Pray for our Enemies; We of this Congregation here present, do most humbly implore and beg of thy Divine Majesty, that thou wilt in thy most gracious and good time save and deliver such Protestant Dissenters, call'd Presbyterians, and all such wicked and notorious Sinners that truly and heartily Repent them of all their most wicked Sins and Abominations; We humbly beseech thee to Convert and turn them from all hardness of Heart, from Pride, Vain-glory, Hypocrisie and Rebellion, from all False Doctrines, Heresies and Schisms, from Contempt of thy most Holy Word and Commandments.

O Lord! mollifie their obdurate Hearts, their stony hard Hearts, give them Hearts of Flesh, that they may be truly made sensible of all their most abominable Sins and Wickednesses, make them new and Contrite Hearts; such Hearts, O God! as thou wilt not despise, and may they weep such Tears as may wash their most wicked and polluted Souls from all their vile and naughty Corruptions; as thou hast promised thou wilt be graciously pleased to put a new Spirit in 'em, if they sincerely Repent, Wash them with the divine Holy Water, as may render them fit for so Holy Washing, and as Flesh and Blood cannot keep thy Holy Commandments without thy divine Assistance, Lord assist them, Lord help them, Lord give them thine Almighty Aid, and all this we beg for Jesus Christ's sake. Grant this, O Heavenly Father, that they may at last be brought safely to thy Eternal Kingdom, that they with them may praise thy Holy Name, for ever and ever. Amen.

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